

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 13488 021245Z

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: BISHOP CLAVER ON MARTIAL LAW: PNA VERSION

1. SEPTEMBER 1 BULLETIN TODAY RAN FP STORY UNDER HEADLINE, "MARTIAL LAW HAS TWO FACES" CONCERNING BISHOP CLAVER'S PARTICIPATION IN CBS TV PROGRAM BROADCAST. AUGUST 31 CLAVER REPORTEDLY SAID THAT MARTIAL LAW (A) RESTORED PEACE AND ORDER AND ABOLISHED PRIVATE ARMIES, (B) MADE POSSIBLE CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE, (C) ELIMINATED CORRUPTION. ACCORDING TO BULLETIN ACCOUNT (BASED ON PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY DISPATCH DATED WASHINGTON AUGUST 31), CLAVER ALSO OBSERVED MARTIAL LAW HAD FAILED TO DISTRIBUTE WEALTH, UPLIFT LIFE OF THE POOR AND OBSERVE HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. CLAVER WAS INTERVIEWED WITH REV. JOSEPH O'HARE, EDITOR OF JESUIT MAGAZINE AMERICA (AND FORMER MISSIONARY HERE) BY JOEL SPIVAK OF CBS. INTERVIEW TAPED AT END OF EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS EARLIER IN AUGUST. ACCOUNT IMPRECISE BUT CLAVER REPORTED TO HAVE SAID OBJECTIVES OF PRESIDENT MARCOS AND THE CHURCH IN THE MATTERS OF REFORM WERE THE SAME, ALTHOUGH APPROACH DIFFERENT. SPIVAK ASKED WHETHER MARTIAL LAW WAS "OPPRESSIVE." CLAVER REPLIED THAT IN CERTAIN PLACES IN THE PHILIPPINES THE PEOPLE WERE AFRAID OF THE MILITARY, BUT IN BUKIDNON, IT WAS THE MILITARY THAT WAS AFRAID OF US." CLAVER ADMITTED MARTIAL LAW HAD BROUGHT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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PAGE 02 MANILA 13488 021245Z

BUT SAID IT HAD NOT YET TRICKLED DOWN TO THE POOR

PEOPLE.

3. CLAVER WAS ASKED WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN EFFORT TO PREVENT HIS LEAVING THE PHILIPPINES. HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN BECAUSE GOVERNMENT WAS AFRAID HE WOULD CRITICIZE IT. ASKED IF PRESIDENT MARCOS WOULD RETALIATE WHEN HE RETURNED HOME, CLAVER SAID "PRESIDENT MARCOS WON'T DO IT. WE FEEL SECURE IN OUR GREATEST STRENGTH WHICH IS OUR VERY VULNERABILITY, BUT THIS SHOULD NOT STOP US."

4. PNA REPORT IN BULLETIN WAS NOT CARRIED OVER REGULAR PNA WIRE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT WHEN DISPATCH RECEIVED FROM WASHINGTON, IT WAS BUCKED TO INFORMATION SECRETARY TATAD WHO THEN REFERRED IT TO PRESIDENTIAL PRESS STAFF. SOMEONE GAVE XEROX COPY OF DISPATCH TO BULLETIN WHICH RAN IT. DPI IS TRYING TO DETERMINE WHO LEAKED STORY.

5. COMMENT: PNA'S ACCOUNT OF CLAVER TV INTERVIEW BLATANTLY SELF-SERVING EVEN BY NEW SOCIETY JOURNALISTIC STANDARDS. DPI MAY HAVE WANTED TO HOLD STORY PRECISELY BECAUSE STORY'S OMISSIONS MAKES ITS CREDIBILITY ESPECIALLY QUESTIONABLE. ALSO, DPI IS AWARE THAT SELECTIVE REPORTING OF CLAVER'S REMARKS MIGHT INVOLVE IT IN AN UNNECESSARY CONFRONTATION WITH THE VOCAL PRELATE AND MAKE REGIME LOOK FOOLISH WHEN FULL TEXT OF INTERVIEW SURFACES AS WE SUSPECT IT WILL. WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING TRANSCRIPT OF CLAVER /O'HARE INTERVIEW.
SULLIVAN

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